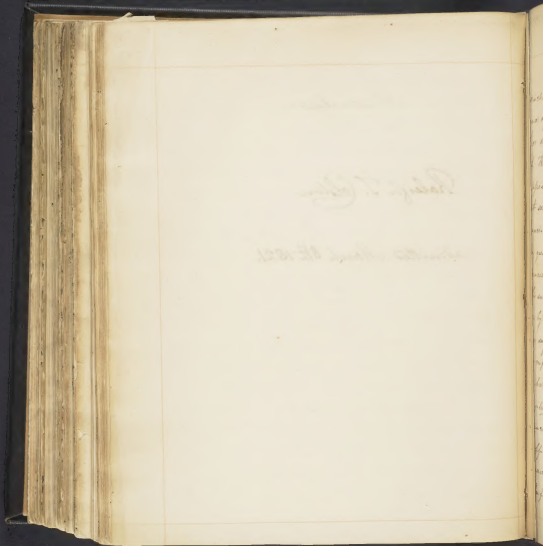


Menstruation.

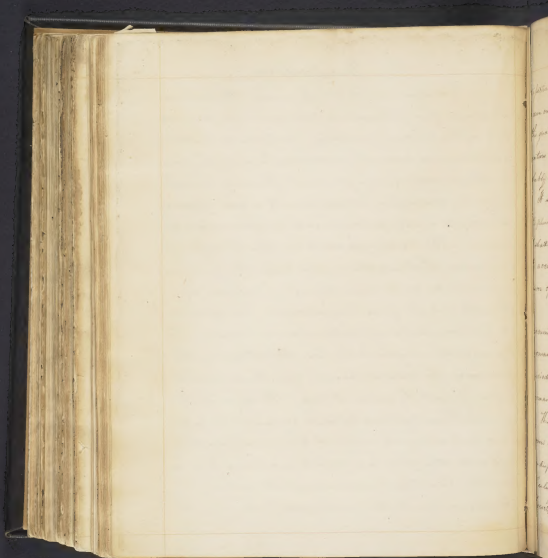
Raleigh T. Colston

admitted March 8th 1821.



On Menstruation

Menstruation, or in other words, the periodical discharge of a fluid which takes place in women at, and after the age of puberty, has furnished matter for discussion among the medical world since the days of Hippocrates, and has given rise to theories of the most opposite and diversified nature, with a view of arriving at some plausible certainty as to its nature and dependence. But such appears to have been the difficulty in question, that until late years no one theory was advanced which could stand the test of criticism, and the subject as far from being elucidated, was rather obscured by the numberless difficulties which each increasing theory suggested in regard to the other. Notwithstanding this discrepancy of opinion however and the consequent embarrassment to which it led, the mind of the diligent Physiologist was too much awakened to its importance as a subject to suffer it to languish, and these difficulties themselves have operated as counteragents to dispair by furnishing a proper stimulus to question. Influenced by such feelings, and aided by the light of

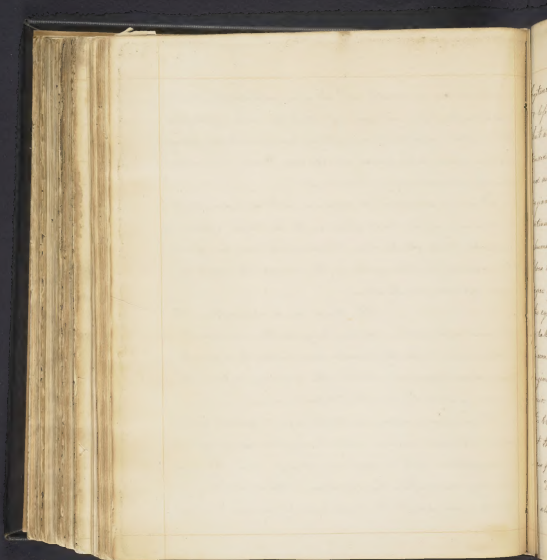


disfigure, can we doubt, with the genius and talent which adorn our profession in every age, that time will unfold to us the greatest mysteries of our nature and open to our imagination those wonders which an all-wise Creator has most probably not destined to concealment?

It is my design here to commence with an account of the phenomena which take place in the discharge, after which I shall notice all the other things which have been framed to account for them, and lastly, examine the most modern opinions on the same.

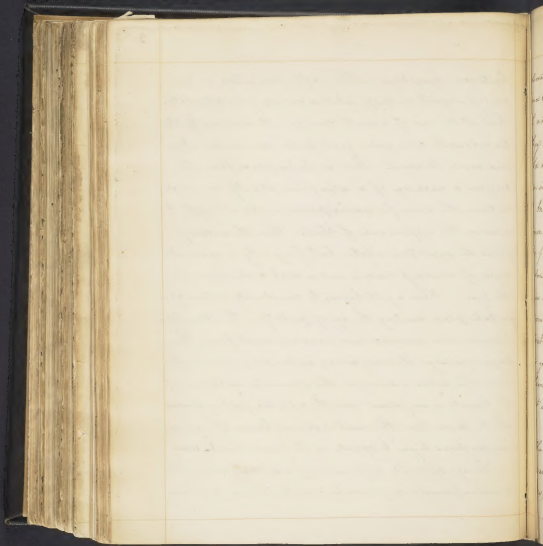
The Menses are so named from the circumstance of their occurring every month, and when the woman is in a healthy condition are marked by a minute periodical evacuation. Whilst this discharge continues the woman is said to be out of order or unwell.

This discharge always enters the age of puberty, and in some instances comes on without any previous or attendant indisposition, but in most cases it is preceded by uneasy feelings, very often by affections of the stomach and bowels, pain about the back and pelvis, and various



hysterical symptoms. These affections which are more or less urgent in different individuals gradually abate, but at the end of a month come on with more severity attended with colic pains, quick pulse, sometimes hot skin and desire to vomit. There now takes place from the Vagina a discharge of a serous fluid slightly red which continues the same for several periods, until at length it assumes the appearance of blood. When the discharge flows the symptoms abate, but frequently a considerable degree of weakness remains and a dark circle surrounds the eye. When a girl begins to menstruate certain changes take place denoting the age of puberty. The uterus becomes more expanded and assumes its adult form, the Vagina enlarges, the mons veneris swells up and is covered with hair, the pelvis is enlarged, the glandular substance of the breasts is unfolded and the cellular part increased at the same time the mental powers become stronger and new passions begin to operate on the female heart. ^{See}

The age of puberty differs not only in different women, but is also influenced very much by climate. Thus in very warm



climates, as for instance Asia, the menses make their appearance as early as the ninth year, and it appears to be a law of nature that the earlier they occur in life, the sooner they take their final leave; hence women in Asia are ill and infirm, while those in Europe and this country are in the prime and vigour of life.

In this as in all other temperate climates the most common age at which the menses appear is that of thirteen or fourteen, and the period of life when they cease is about forty-four. The quantity of the discharge varies also according to the climate and constitution of the woman. In this country from four to six ounces are lost at each menstrual period, the continuance of which is generally from three to four days; but in women who live luxuriously and are confined in warm apartments it is more copious and continues for a much longer period.

It appears to have been the opinion of all writers on the subject of Menstruation, that the fluid expelled by the vagina is of a sanguineous kind differing in some respects from common blood; Thus Hippocrates

declare it to be when in a healthy condition.
 Most of the worst cases, remembering that I have
 from the point of a case of a male disease. It is
 sometimes considered as to be a most rare case
 with the disease. The first is usually a case of
 it even, but the nature of the disease is
 very different from the others. It was also supposed at
 first to be connected with the first of the
 disease, but both the nature and the
 course. Then a menstruating woman was taken
 down, a considerable number of discharges and
 their results, in common, that merely, rather
 over provided in India with their animals was
 not to be taken to them, Gardens and
 can be a admitting a woman, so that their
 most that I have should find it is never
 at all, Ven layers, were in the same way
 least their work starts to put a ferment in, and
 among their above for it is a case of it. It was
 also a case of it, but it was not, but it was



the same blood of women

In the first place, it is to be observed, that the blood of women is not the same as that of men, but is more refined and more pure.

The blood of women is more refined and more pure, than that of men, and is more apt to be converted into flesh, and to be the source of new life.

In the next place, it is to be observed, that the blood of women is more refined and more pure, than that of men, and is more apt to be converted into flesh, and to be the source of new life. The blood of women is more refined and more pure, than that of men, and is more apt to be converted into flesh, and to be the source of new life.

That menstruation has no connection with the blood, is pretty clearly shown from the facts before us. Let us suppose that the blood of women is more refined and more pure, than that of men, and is more apt to be converted into flesh, and to be the source of new life. Let us suppose that the blood of women is more refined and more pure, than that of men, and is more apt to be converted into flesh, and to be the source of new life.



the first menstruous period. It is further attested that in some instances even when the menses have disappeared in women very far advanced in life that emigration has been the consequence.

I should mention a case in her lecture, which seems rather curious. That of an old maid, who had a peculiar kind of the same when she was 64 years of age. She herself was ignorant of the cause of the same, and even a medical man, with her assistance, had been unable to ascertain it. She gave up the matter, she was married at the last by the death of a young boy. Under this it is supposed the calling of the course was up. That the menstruous blood was the purifier of a long time menstruation to the females, and when it ceases, the woman is old, and the blood is not so pure.

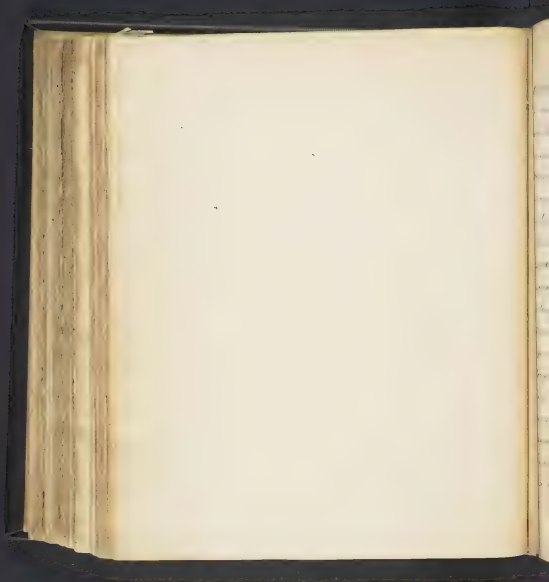
We mean that the cause out of which all things
-arise, is the source of them. For as much as
revelation plainly enough, it has been the great leading





The least extent of the operation, in my mind, is the
excision of the umbilical vein. This section
leads to the placenta, and is the only one which is
for motion, notwithstanding the fact that the
median of the placenta is the umbilical.





[illegible]







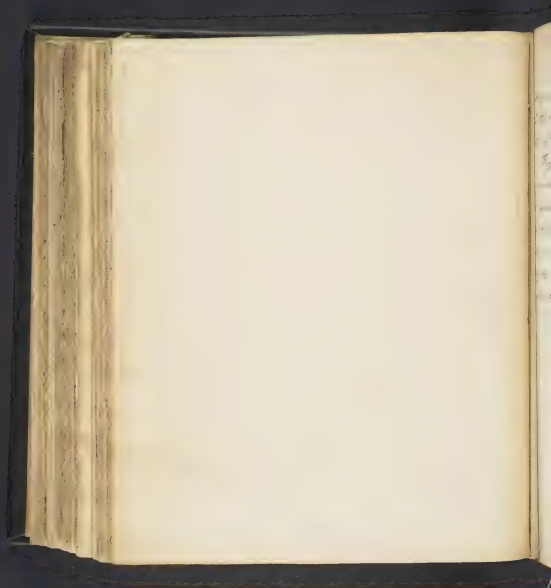
[illegible]



Dr. Fowler says the water is pure & excellent
 "Water comes by the same way as the spring"







Why may not the infinitely more glandular organization
of the uterus elaborate the menstrual flux?

As yet we know of no glandular structure in vegetables.

They contain only tubes or vessels through which the
fluids circulate. Notwithstanding, however, the want
of glands we find the sap of plants converted into oils,
mucilages, acids &c. Than this surely no stronger
proof can be required, of the extreme simplicity of the
organs, by which the secretory transformations are
effected.

